

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1470

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, WB, GW

SUBJ: CDU CALLS FOR A VOTE OF NO-CONFIDENCE AGAINST MAYOR
SCHUETZ

1. SUMMARY: THE BERLIN CDU CALLED FOR A VOTE OF NO-CONFIDENCE AGAINST GOVERNING MAYOR KLAUS SCHUETZ. THE VOTE IS EXPECTED TO BE HELD NEXT FRIDAY, JULY 23. CDU ACCUSES MAYOR OF BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR PRISON CONDITIONS WHICH LEAD TO ESCAPE OF FOUR TERRORISTS HERE LAST WEEK. SPD/FDP COALITION GOVERNMENT CAN BE EXPECTED TO SURVIVE TEST BUT POLITICAL TURMOIL IN BERLIN CAN ONLY MAKE BONN GOVERNMENT ALL THE MORE NERVOUS ABOUT UPCOMING NATIONAL ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE CDU CAUCUS OF THE BERLIN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES RESOLVED JULY 13 TO CALL FOR A VOTE OF NO-CONFIDENCE AGAINST GOVERNING MAYOR KLAUS SCHUETZ. THE CDU WILL PRESENT NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION AT SPECIAL HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MEETING ON JULY 21. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BERLIN CONSTITUTION, NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION WILL HAVE TO BE VOTED ON 48 HOURS LATER, I.E. ON JULY 23. MANY REPRESENTATIVES WILL HAVE TO RETURN FROM VACATION FOR NEXT WEEK'S VOTE SINCE THE GOVERNING SPD/FDP COALITION ONLY HAS A NINE VOTE MAJORITY.

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3. THE CDU JUSTIFIES ITS MOTION OF NO-CONFIDENCE BY CLAIMING THAT "THE PERSON PRINCIPALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GRAVE FAILURES OF THE SENAT IN CONNECTION WITH THE BREAKOUT OF FOUR TERRORISTS FROM THE BERLIN-MOABIT PRISON IS GOVERNING MAYOR KLAUS SCHUETZ." BERLIN SPD SPOKESMAN HAS REPLIED BY ACCUSING CDU OF FABRICATING ELECTION YEAR PROPAGANDA BY PROPOSING VOTE. THE SPD CLAIMED THE CDU ACTION HAS NO OBJECTIVE OR POLITICAL BASIS, BUT SERVES TO "ENRICH THE HITHERTO DISINGENUOUS ELECTION CAMPAIGN OF CDU/CSU."

4. FOLLOWING RESIGNATION OF JUSTICE SENATOR OXFORD AND AGREEMENT WITHIN THE COALITION TO NAME PROF. JURGEN BAUMANN AS THE NOMINEE FOR JUSTICE MINISTER, GOV. MAYOR SCHUETZ LEFT BERLIN LATE JULY 12 FOR A VACATION IN SWITZERLAND. SCHUETZ WAS INFORMED YESTERDAY BY PHONE OF THE CDU'S CALL FOR NO-CONFIDENCE VOTE AND IS EXPECTED BACK IN BERLIN SHORTLY BEFORE JULY 23 PARLIAMENT MEETING.

5. CDU CHAIRMAN LORENZ AND CAUCUS CHAIRMAN LUMMER, WHO HAD BEEN TRAVELLING IN US, WERE SURPRISED TO LEARN FROM PRESS UPON ARRIVAL IN HAMBURG ENROUTE BACK TO BERLIN ON JULY 14 THAT NO CONFIDENCE VOTE HAD BEEN CALLED FOR NEXT WEEK. ACTING CHAIRMAN SCHMITZ WAS ON HAND TO EXPLAIN TO THEM REASONS FOR CDU CAUCUS ACTION WHEN THEY ARRIVED AT TEGEL.

6. COMMENT: BOTH BERLIN SPD AND CDU LEADERSHIP ACTING AS IF EXTENDED PERIOD OF DRY AND UNUSUALLY HOT WEATHER HAS GONE TO THEIR HEADS. WE ARE PUZZLED WHY SCHUETZ, WHO KNEW THE CDU WAS PLANNING TO DISCUSS A NO-CONFIDENCE VOTE AGAINST HIM, AND WHO COULD NOT HAVE FAILED TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN CITY WAS ANYTHING BUT SETTLED, INSISTED ON RUSHING OFF TO HIS VACATION HIDEAWAY IN SWITZERLAND LEAVING BEHIND HIM A VERY DEFINITE IMPRESSION THAT HE SIMPLY DIDN'T CARE ABOUT WHAT WAS HAPPENING HERE. ON THE OTHER HAND, CDU IS PROBABLY DELUDING ITSELF ONCE AGAIN IF IT THINKS IT CAN ROUND UP ENOUGH SPD AND FDP VOTES TO WIN NO-CONFIDENCE VOTE AGAINST GOV. MAYOR. NO MATTER HOW UNHAPPY SOME MEMBERS OF THE SPD RIGHT-WING MAY BE WITH

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THE SITUATION IN SENAT IT IS HARDLY LIKELY THAT THEY WOULD BE TEMPTED AT THIS DATE TO ENTER INTO A SUICIDE PACT WHICH WOULD BRING DOWN THE COALITION GOVERNMENT HERE AND SERIOUSLY DAMAGE IT IN BONN AS WELL. IT SEEMS THEN, THAT THE CDU HAS ONLY SLIMMEST CHANCE OF PASSING ITS NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION, EVEN LESS SO SINCE A LARGE NUMBER OF OTHERWISE POTENTIALLY RENEGADE COALITION MEMBERS WILL BE IRRITATED AT CDU BECAUSE THEY ARE

BEING FORCED TO INTERRUPT THEIR OWN CHERISHED
VACATIONS TO COME BACK TO PARTICIPATE IN THE VOTE.
CDU CAUCUS PROBABLY FELT (PERHAPS WITH SOME URGING
FROM CDU LEADERS IN FRG) THAT IF ANY POLITICAL AD-
VANTAGE WAS TO BE HAD FROM SECURITY SITUATION IN
BERLIN, IT WAS BEST TO FORCE SPD/FDP LEADERS INTO
DEBATE AT EARLIEST FEASIBLE TIME, WITH ESCAPED
TERRORISTS STILL AT LARGE AND SUBJECT VERY MUCH ON
PEOPLES' MINDS ALL OVER GERMANY, THAN WAIT UNTIL MID-
AUGUST, WHEN PARLIAMENTARY ACTION WAS ORIGINALLY
SCHEDULED TO DECIDE ON NEW MAYOR AND SENATOR FOR
JUSTICE.GEORGE

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